

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
ATTACK CARRIER AIR WING EIGHT  
FPO NEW YORK 09501

IN REPLY REF

Code 11  
Ser 31  
31 March

From: Commander Attack Carrier Air Wing EIGHT  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09B9)

Subj: Command History; forwarding of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12

Encl: (1) Command History for Attack Carrier Air Wing EIGHT

1. In accordance with reference (a) enclosure (1) is forward

(b) (6)



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## ATTACK CARRIER AIR WING EIGHT

CHRONOLOGY OF HIGHLIGHTS

1. 1 January 1969 - Attack Carrier Air Wing EIGHT, commanded by CDR ROBERT L. LOVELACE was homeported at NAS CECIL FIELD operating as a unit of COMFAIRJAX, under operational control of Commander Carrier Division SIX. The following units were assigned:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MODEL</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>COMMANDING OFFICER</u>
VF-13	F8H	10	CDR W. J. BRANDEL JR.
VF-62	F8H	10	CDR S. W. HUBBARD JR.
VA-172	A4C	14	CDR J. D. YAMNICKY
VA-12	A4C	14	CDR R. M. FLETCHER
VA-72	A4B	14	CDR R. A. PHILLIPS
VFP-63	RF8G	3	LCDR J. W. ROSSON
VAW-121	E1B	3	LCDR L. A. BRENNAN

2. 1 January found CVW-8 at Cecil Field, Florida preparing for the Med. cruise departing on 7 Jan. The USS SHANGRI-LA departed on time and conducted limited air operations on the transit. The first stop was in Polleunia Bay, Mallorca for a turnover with the USS INDEPENDENCE on 18 January. After turnover the ship departed and conducted routine air operations in the western Mediterranean and into port at Barcelona, Spain on 3 February. Departing Barcelona on 10 February, the Air Wing immediately began to conduct a combined exercise with the Spanish Air Force and then proceeded to Cannes, France arriving on 17 February. After leaving Cannes, the Air Wing conducted a Joint Sixth Fleet Surveillance exercise and arrived on 7 March in Naples, Italy. The Air Wing, leaving Naples on 17 March, proceeded to the Hellenic waters and participated in Exercise Quick Draw prior to entering fleet anchorage at Falison Bay, Athens, Greece on 23 March. (After leaving Athens, Air Wing training continued and we proceeded to a anchorage [for the first time of the cruise] in Valletta, Malta on 3 April.) The routine operational training continued with no major exercise undertaken prior to a short fleet anchorage in Soudha Bay Crete from 17-19 April. The next period at sea found CVW-8 participating in a large Sixth Fleet exercise extending from Greece to Sardinia, then proceeded to Naples, Italy on 2 May for four days. The Air Wing played host to Italian Officers on 7 May and then to Barcelona for the second time on 11 May. The cruise, being a bit over halfway through, found CVW-8 back at sea on 18 May for routine operations while enroute to Valletta, Malta, arriving on 26 May. Following a 7 day inport, the Air Wing participated in Joint exercises with Hellenic and German forces, which allowed the Air Wing to accomplish a great deal of realistic operations over land.

The ship and wing proceeded to Athens, Greece on 10 June and CVW-8 sent a detachment ashore to participate in a Hellenian airshow. Leaving Athens on 16 June, CVW-8 continued routine training enroute to Cannes, France which was the last port of call of the cruise. Leaving Cannes on 6 July, the air wing participated in the second Poopdeck of the cruise with the Spanish Air Force and then to a fleet anchorage 13-15 July, departing the anchorage for Rota, Spain on 18-19 July for turn-over with the USS SARATOGA (CVA-60). The cruise aboard the USS SHANGRI-LA officially ended on 22 July when the ship entered Mayport, Florida. The Air Wing had flown off the day prior to their home port of NAS CECIL FIELD, FLORIDA. A 20 day leave period started and then began a new training cycle on 28 August. On 12 September, CDR William M. STOLLENWERCK relieved CDR Robert H. LOVELACE as Commander, Attack Carrier Air Wing EIGHT in ceremonies at NAS CECIL.

The composition of the wing began to change with the loss of VA-72 which began transition to the A-7 on 15 September at NAS CECIL FIELD, Florida. On 1 October, VF-13 and VF-62 were decommissioned with ceremonies at NAS CECIL. The first at sea period was 14 November with VA-12 and VA-172 assisting the USS SHANGRI-LA, after its RAV period, in sea trials off the coast of Jacksonville. On 1 December, the Air Wing embarked for a REFTRA cruise to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. During this period, CVW was joined by VA-152, VAW-121 Det 38, VAH-10 Det 38, VFP-63 Det 38, VF-111, and VF-162. Return to Naval Station Mayport was on 21 December just in time to spend the Christmas holidays at home. Air Wing composition as of 31 December 1969 was:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MODEL</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>COMMANDING OFFICER</u>
VF-111	F8H	10	CDR R. C. DIMON
VF-162	F8H	10	CDR R. G. CONAUGHTON
VA-12	A4C	12	CDR W. R. PETERSEN
VA-152	A4E	12	CDR E. E. SHEELEY
VA-172	A4C	12	CDR C. B. OLSON
VFP-63 DET 38	RF8G	3	LCDR N. T. BLACK
VAW-121 DET 38	E1B	3	LCDR J. M. FERRY
VAH-10 DET 38	KA3B	3	CDR G. A. HAMLIN

#### BASIC NARRATIVE

##### 1. Command Organization.

a. Following officers commanded Attack Carrier Air Wing EIGHT during the reporting period:

CDR ROBERT H. LOVELACE	1 JANUARY-12 SEPTEMBER
CDR WILLIAM M. STOLLENWERCK	12 SEPTEMBER-31 DECEMBER

b. During the calendar year, the CVW-8 Staff was located as follows:

<u>SHIP/STATION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATES</u>
NAS CECIL FIELD .	FLORIDA	1 JAN-6 JAN
USS SHANGRI-LA (CVA-38)	MEDITERRANEAN	7 JAN-28 JUL
NAS CECIL FIELD	FLORIDA	29 JUL-13 NOV
USS SHANGRI-LA (CVS-38)	FLORIDA	14 NOV-18 NOV
NAS CECIL FIELD	FLORIDA	19 NOV-1 DEC
USS SHANGRI-LA (CVS-38)	GUANTANAMO	1 DEC-21 DEC

Specific statistics regarding squadron activities is contained in respective command histories.

c. The mission of Attack Carrier Air Wing EIGHT and Detachments are as follows:

To conduct and coordinate offensive air operations engaging in attack air, surface and sub-surface targets, afloat and ashore, which threaten control of the sea and to conduct sustained air operations in support of other forces as directed.

d. The changes in composition of the Air Wing are delineated in the Chronology of Events. The exact composition of squadrons and detachments is presented in their respective command histories. The composition of the Air Wing Staff on 31 December was 11 officers and 12 enlisted assigned.

## 2. Activities.

a. Following deployments were made:

<u>SHIP/STATION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATES</u>
USS SHANGRI-LA (CVA-38)	MEDITERRANEAN	7 JAN-28 Jul
USS SHANGRI-LA (CVS-38)	FLORIDA	14 NOV-18 NOV
USS SHANGRI-LA (CVS-38)	GUANTANAMO	1 DEC-21 DEC

Specific statistics regarding squadron activity is contained in respective command histories.

## 3. Special Topics.

a. During the calendar year, Air Wing Pilots made the follow "1000th" arrested landings aboard USS SHANGRI-LA (CVA-38).

101,000	LTJG (b) (6)	VA-172
102,000	LT (b) (6)	VF-13
103,000	LT	VA-172
104,000	LT (b) (6)	VA-72
105,000	LT	VA-72
106,000	LCDR (b) (6)	VF-62
107,000	LT (b) (6)	VF-62
108,000	LCDR (b) (6)	VA-72

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109,000	LT (b) (6)	VAW-121 DET ??
110,000	LTJG (b) (6)	VF-62
111,000	LTJG	VA-12

b. Special Exercises.

POOPDECK	10-14 JAN	7-10 JUN
NATIONAL WK II	2- 5 MAR	
QUICKDRAW	18-22 MAR	
RIMEX	29 MAR- 2 APR	
DAWN PATROL	20 APR- 1 MAY	
NATIONAL WK III	19-25 MAY	
OLYMPIC EXPRESS	2- 9 JUN	

c. Change of Commands.

1. VF-13 - 5 February - CDR G. B. GREGORY relieved  
CDR W. J. BRANDEL Jr.
2. VA-72 - 9 April - CDR S. E. LATIMER relieved  
CDR R. A. PHILLIPS
3. CVW-8 - 12 September CDR W. M. STOLLENWERCK relieve  
CDR R. H. LOVELACE
4. VA-12 - 30 September - CDR W. R. PETERSEN relieved  
CDR R. M. FLETCHER
5. VA-172 - 31 October - CDR C. B. OLSON relieved  
CDR J. B. YAMNICKY

4. Summary.

Although the composition of the Air Wing changed as did the aircraft it flew, the mission and high level of professional performance did not. Air Wing EIGHT ended the year as it had b a strong, professional fighting unit.